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NEWS RELEASE

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia announced the filing today of a criminal information on a corporate defendant for offering to sell drug paraphernalia in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Harvey L. Bryant III, the Commonwealth Attorney for Virginia Beach, also announced that charges are pending for violations of Virginia State Code, 18.2-265.1-3 and the applicable forfeiture statute 18.2-265.4 (now codified at 19.2-386.2) for offering to sell drug paraphernalia.

The investigation surrounded the dismantling of three local stores selling drug paraphernalia. To date, one corporate defendant and three store owners have agreed to plead guilty to charges in federal and/or state court:

- G13 Handblown Inc. of Virginia Beach, Virginia;
- John Andrew Belote, President of G13 Handblown Inc.;
- Kirk Raymond Joynes, Vice President of G13 Handblown Inc.; and
- Frank Kinnear, sole proprietor of "Ocean Glass Designs".

Mr. McNulty said, "The war on drugs must be fought on many fronts. Head shops are symbols of tolerance for drug abuse. We cannot turn a blind eye to those who willfully facilitate the abuse of drugs."

Mr. Bryant stated, "State and federal cooperation serves to enhance our ability to combat crime. I am especially proud of the outstanding contributions made by officials of the Special Investigation Unit of the Virginia Beach Police Department, by Assistants in my office to further the cause of justice and the cooperation of the United States Attorney's Office and the Drug Enforcement Administration in Norfolk, Virginia."

Assistant United States Attorney Kevin M. Comstock is prosecuting this case for the United States.